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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/394,474 09/11/99 WRIGHT

R

QM61/1103

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EXAMINER

FETSUGA, R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3751

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DATE MAILED:

11/03/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/394,474 09/11/99 WRIGHT

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0M02/1011

EXAMINER

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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3751

*6***DATE MAILED:** 10/11/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/394,474	Applicant(s) Wright et al.
	Examiner Robert M. Fetsuga	Group Art Unit 3751

Responsive to communication(s) filed on Sep 1, 2000

This action is **FINAL**.

Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

Claim(s) 4-16 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) none is/are withdrawn from consideration.

Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

Claim(s) 4-16 is/are rejected.

Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

The drawing(s) filed on Sep 11, 1999 is/are objected to by the Examiner.

The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is approved disapproved.

The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

All Some* None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

received.

received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____.

Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

Interview Summary, PTO-413

Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

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1. The declaration is defective. A new declaration in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.67(a) identifying this application by its Serial Number and filing date is required. See M.P.E.P. §§ 602.01 and 602.02.

The declaration is defective because:

At the time of signing, the declaration had been amended, but such is not reflected therein.

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: The drawing figures should include feature designating numerals referenced in the specification. This objection was not addressed in the previous response.

Appropriate correction is required.

3. The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(d)(1) and M.P.E.P. § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required: Proper antecedent basis for the new terminology set forth in claims 4-8 and 10-16 could not be found in the specification.

4. Claims 9, 11, 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s),

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at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Re claim 9, no reference could be found in the original specification concerning a "gel". Re claim 11, no reference could be found in the original specification concerning the recited subject matter. Re claims 14 and 15, no reference could be found in the original specification concerning a "neutralizing means". Applicant has not pointed to any disclosure in support of any of these claims, as required. Accordingly, the subject matter of claims 9, 11, 14 and 15 is considered to be new matter.

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --
(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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6. Claims 4-8, 10, 12, 13 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Rockett et al.

The Rockett et al. (Rockett) reference (Fig. 2) discloses a floor protection system comprising: a cartridge top 10,26; and an absorbent core 12 including a moisture barrier 14, as claimed.

7. Applicant is referred to MPEP 714.02 if a response to this Office action is filed.

8. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for response to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the date of this action. In the event a first response is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event will the statutory period for response expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

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9. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Robert M. Fetsuga at telephone number (703) 308-1506.



ROBERT M. FETSUGA
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 3751

rmf
October 10, 2000